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Kennedy Lauds U. S. Intelligence Work On Buildup in Cuba

Buffalo Evening News Bureau
WASHINGTON, March 6 —

President Kennedy today declared American intelligence services "did a very good job" in detecting and reporting the Soviet Union's attempt to place nuclear missiles and strategic aircraft in Cuba last autumn.

He also described himself "satisfied" with the performance of John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and, by implication, with the work of the CIA itself.

He conceded that "by hindsight" the Soviet Missile end run might have been certainly picked up earlier, but refused to embroil himself in the dispute over dates on Capitol Hill.

"In hindsight," he said, "perhaps we could have picked up this information a few days earlier — but not many days earlier."

After all, he said, the missile bases were detected and exposed.

His flat endorsement of his intelligence services appeared to have put a Presidential roadblock in front of an attempt by members of his own party in Congress to make a scapegoat of the CIA specifically and of the intelligence community generally.

This has political overtones that may keep on sounding during the remainder of President Kennedy's term.

Democratic campaign literature in last autumn's election tried to make the CIA, then directed by Allen Dulles, responsible for the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

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